



NICK FURY, AGENT OF...



# SHIELD.

MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP

12¢ 1  
IND. JUNE

MCG

STERANKO



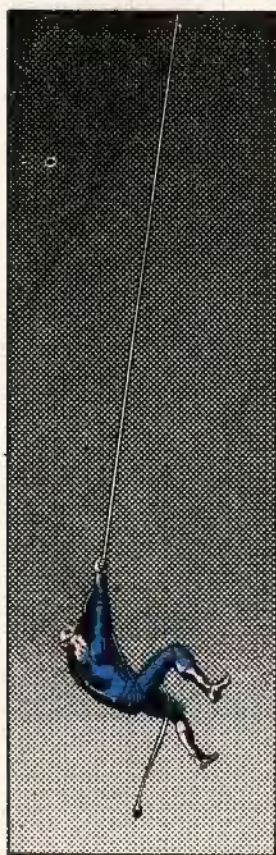
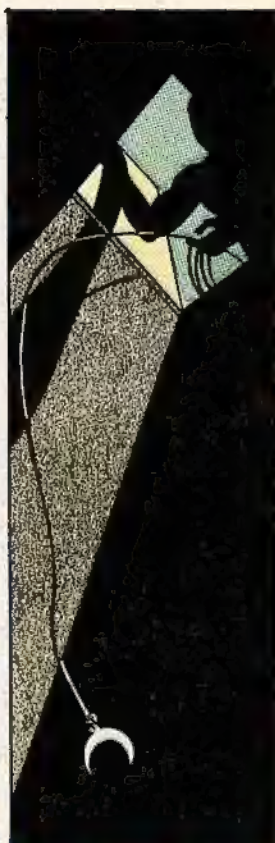


**STAN LEE** EDITOR • **JIM STERANKO** WRITER AND ILLUSTRATOR • **JOE SINNOTT** INKER • **SAM ROSEN** LETTERER  
HAVE TEAMED UP TO PRESENT THE FIRST SHIELD NOVEL-LENGTH EPIC OF UNFORGETTABLE SUSPENSE AND DRAMA!

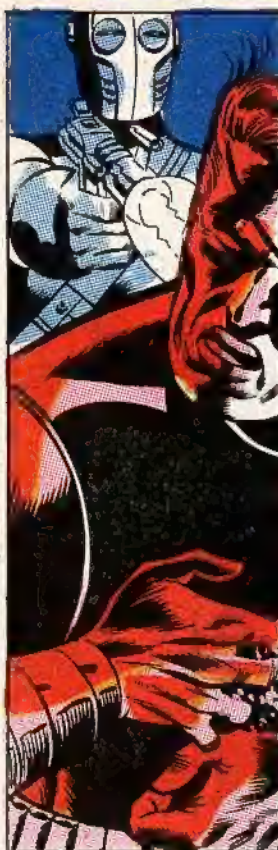
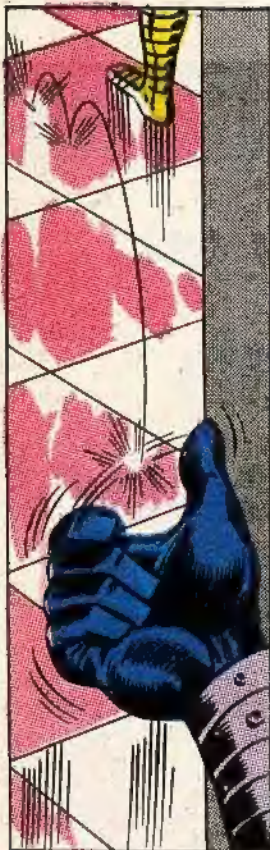


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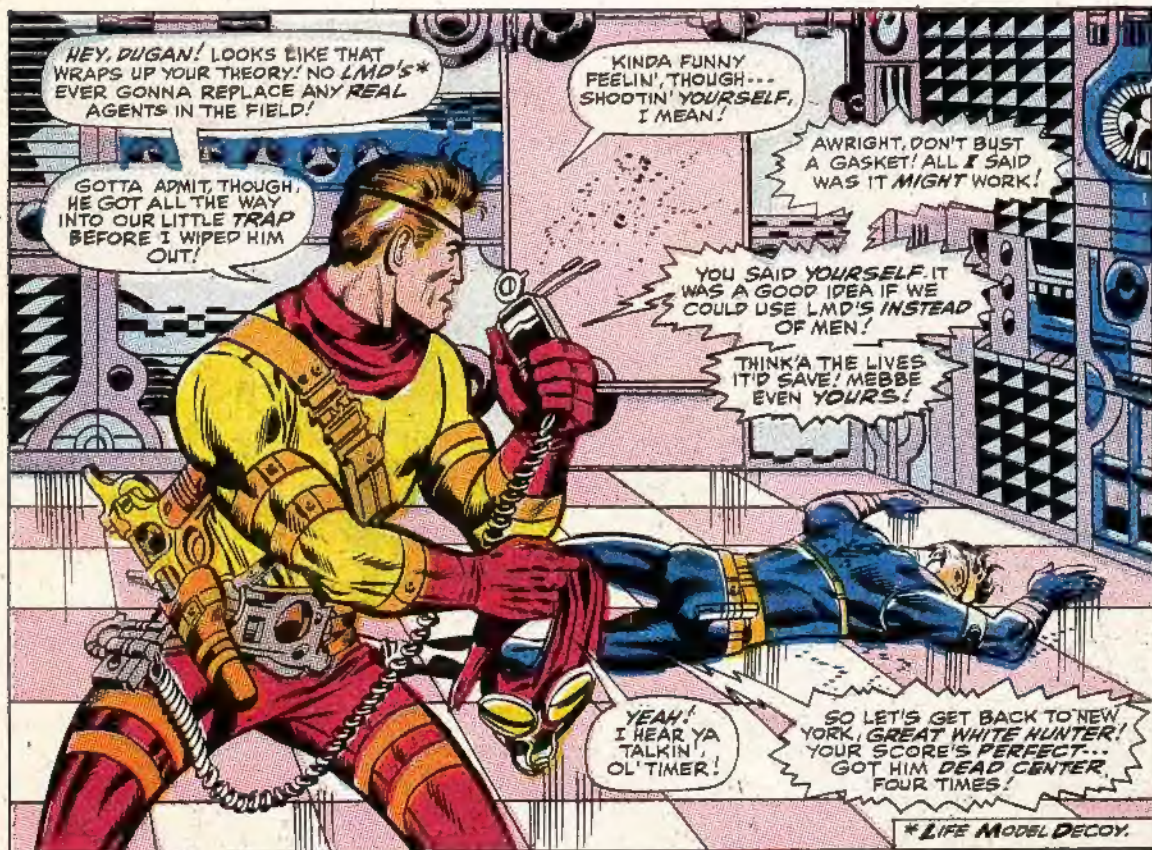






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HEY, DUGAN! LOOKS LIKE THAT WRAPS UP YOUR THEORY! NO LMD'S\* EVER GONNA REPLACE ANY REAL AGENTS IN THE FIELD!

GOTTA ADMIT, THOUGH, HE GOT ALL THE WAY INTO OUR LITTLE TRAP BEFORE I WIPED HIM OUT!

KINDA FUNNY FEELIN', THOUGH... SHOOTIN' YOURSELF, I MEAN!

AWRIGHT, DON'T BUST A GASKET! ALL I SAID WAS IT MIGHT WORK!

YOU SAID YOURSELF, IT WAS A GOOD IDEA IF WE COULD USE LMD'S INSTEAD OF MEN!

THINK'A THE LIVES IT'D SAVE! MEBBE EVEN YOURS!

YEAH! I HEAR YA TALKIN', OL' TIMER!

SO LET'S GET BACK TO NEW YORK, GREAT WHITE HUNTER! YOUR SCORE'S PERFECT... GOT HIM DEAD CENTER, FOUR TIMES!

\*LIFE MODEL DECOY.



HUH! WADDA YA MEAN... FOUR TIMES!

I ONLY GOT OFF THREE ROUNDS! CAN'T YA COUNT?

A'COURSE I CAN AN' I'M TELLIN' YA THE SENSORS SHOW YA DRILLED HIM FOUR TIMES!

FOUR IT SAYS AND FOUR IT IS!

SO WHAT'S IT MATTER ANYWAY! THREE... FOUR... YOU NAILED HIM GOOD! NOW, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!



NOT SO FAST, PAL! WHILE WE WERE PLAYING THE SPY GAME... SOMEBODY ELSE'S BEEN PLAYIN' TOO!

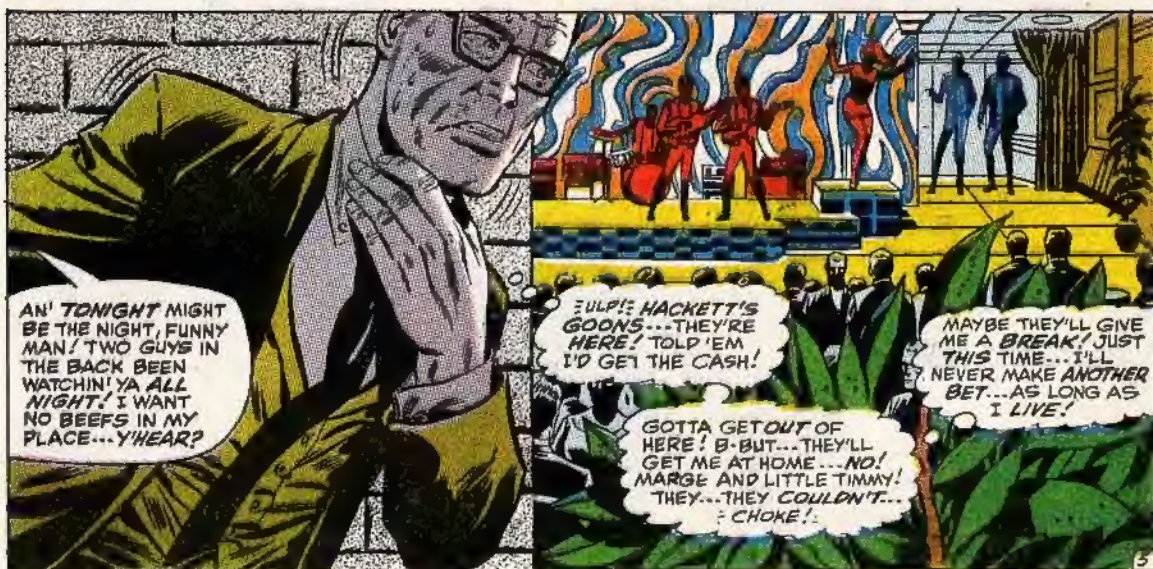
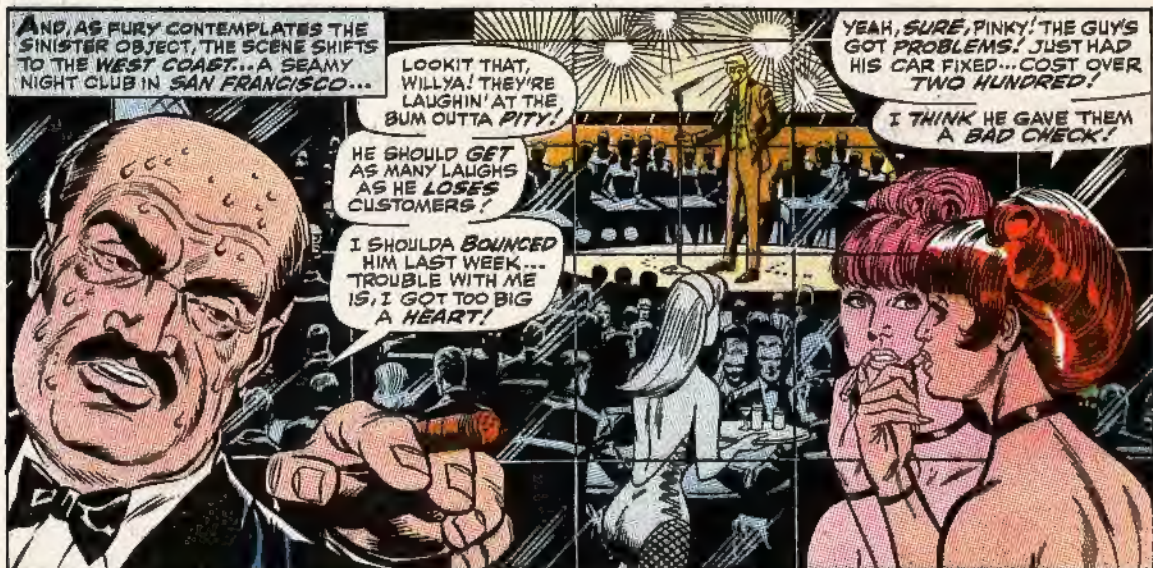
THAT EXTRA BULLET HOLE IN THE LMD... SOMEONE THOUGHT IT WAS ME... FIRED AT THE SAME TIME I DID!

AN' WHILE WE BEEN STANDIN' HERE YAPPIN', THAT SOMEONE'S PUTTIN' DISTANCE BETWEEN US!

DON'T YA GET IT, DUGAN...? I JUST BEEN ASSASSINATED!

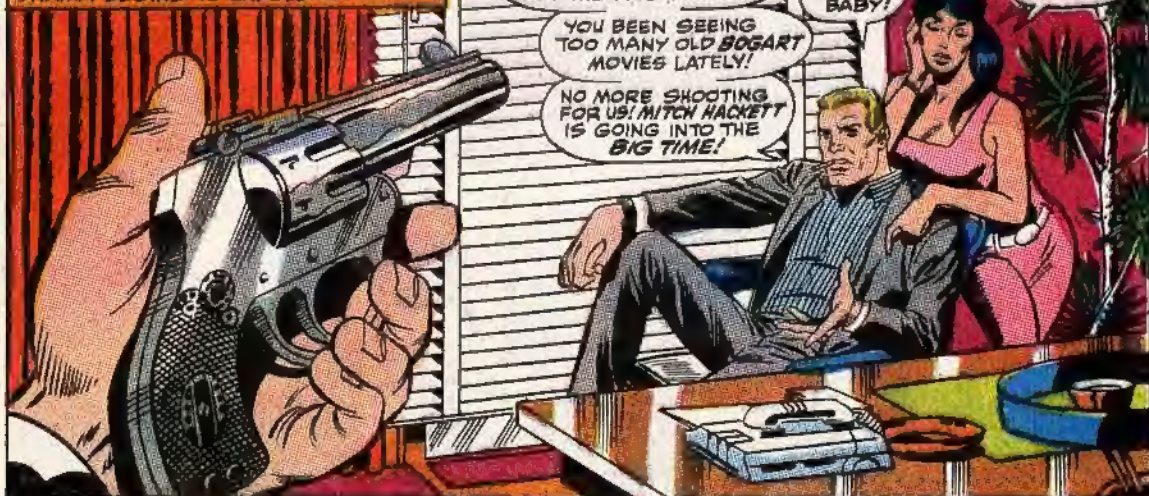
DO YA SUPPOSE THIS LITTLE DISK ON THE FLOOR'S GOT ANYTHING TA DO WITH IT?







MEANWHILE, IN AN EXECUTIVE SUITE IN DOWNTOWN KANSAS CITY, YET ANOTHER DRAMA BEGINS TO UNFOLD...



HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, LESTER? PUT THE ROD AWAY!

SCHOOL IS OUT! RIGHT, BABY?

WHATEVER YOU SAY, MITCH!

YOU BEEN SEEING TOO MANY OLD BOGART MOVIES LATELY!

NO MORE SHOOTING FOR US! MITCH HACKETT IS GOING INTO THE BIG TIME!

WELL, THAT'S WHAT I SAY! THE GOOD TIMES ARE COMING! FIRST THING WE DO IS PICK UP A PACKAGE OF MONEY... IN VEGAS!

AND WHILE WE'RE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, WE'LL CELEBRATE MY NEW POSITION WITH THE SYNDICATE! HUH, BABY?

OH, YEAH! YOU, TOP, LESTER!

YEAH! IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO PACK IN ALL THOSE NICKEL-AND-DIME BETTORS!

SO STICK WITH HACKETT --- HE'S HEADING RIGHT TO THE TOP!

RIGHT, BABY?

RIGHT, MITCH!

HEY! WHAT'S WITH YOU?

OH, NOTHING, REALLY... JUST A FEELING!

I GUESS EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY, NOW!

EXCEPT THE WEATHER! LOOKS LIKE IT'S STARTING TO...

AT THAT MOMENT, IN NEW YORK...



...RAIN! THEY SAY IT MAKES YOU BEAUTIFUL, NICK!

THEN, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN BORN IN IT, VAL!

I SPENT HALF THE WAR IN IT! DIDN'T DO A THING FOR ME!

DID I TELL YA, WE'RE CHECKIN' OUT THAT GIZMO I FOUND? NOTHIN' BUT A ROUND GARD WITH THE SIGN OF SCORPIO ON IT!

SHIELD'S RUNNIN' IT THROUGH THE FBI AND INTERPOL NOW!

HEY! GOTTA GET BACK TO HQ AN' WRAP UP A COUPLA LOOSE ENDS!

TOO BAD! A GIRL GETS LONESOME IN THE BIG CITY! CAREFUL IN THE CROSSTOWN TRAFFIC!

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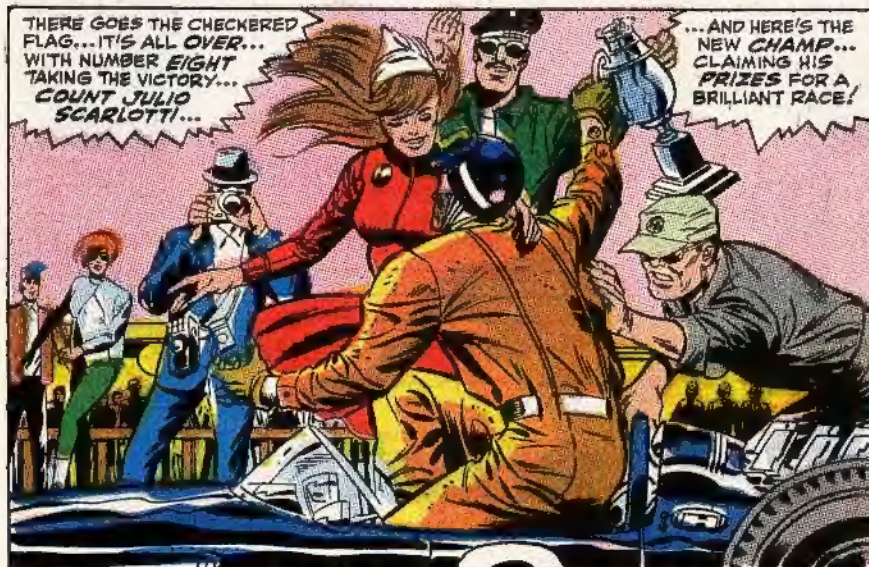
ELSEWHERE, AT THE SELF-SAME INSTANT...



LOOKS LIKE A *BAD* ACCIDENT ON THE STRAIGHTAWAY... NUMBER FIFTEEN... TRYING TO PUSH CAR NUMBER EIGHT OUT OF FIRST PLACE! AND, AS THEY GO INTO THE FINAL LAP HERE AT THE MONZA AUTODROME, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE DYNAMIC LAM-BERGHINI-POWERED CAR IS GOING TO MAINTAIN ITS LEAD POSITION!



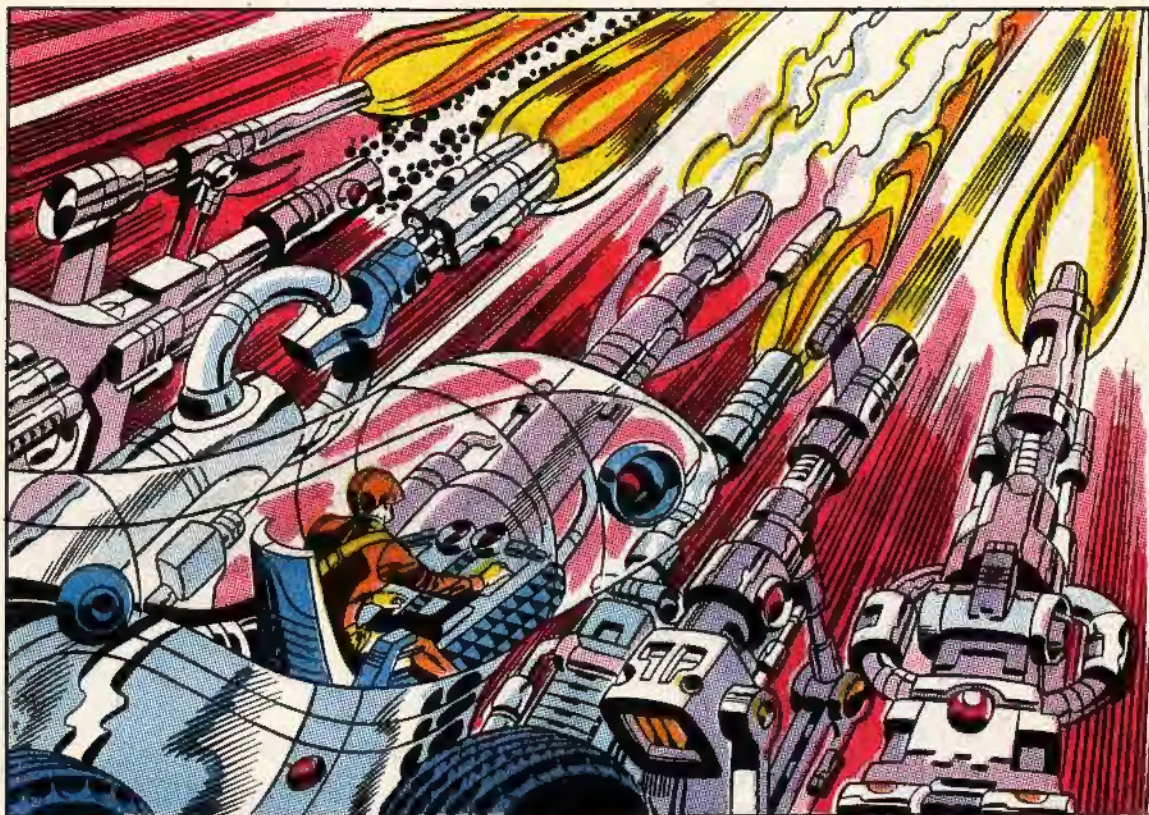
THERE GOES THE CHECKERED FLAG... IT'S ALL OVER... WITH NUMBER EIGHT TAKING THE VICTORY... COUNT JULIO SCARLOTTI...



...AND HERE'S THE NEW CHAMP... CLAIMING HIS PRIZES FOR A BRILLIANT RACE!







AND, SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE RENOWNED RACING EVENT, A SCENE OF UNPARALLELED VIOLENCE OCCURS HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD! SOMEWHERE IN THE BARREN NEVADA DESERT, A LONE FIGURE FACES A UNION OF WEAPONRY ULTRA-LETHAL, THUNDERING CHORUS UPON CHORUS OF DESTRUCTIVE FORCE...  
*AND STILL SURVIVES!*





TARGET FURY TO WATCHDOG BASE  
ONE... CAN YA HEAR ME, DUM DUM?

THIS EPB G-SYSTEM\*  
WORKS LIKE A CHARM!  
AIN'T GOT A SCRATCH  
ON ME... BUT MY EARS  
ARE RINGING LIKE A  
BLASTED FIRE BELL  
DURING A FOUR-  
ALARMER!

TOLD YA IT'D WORK!  
ALL WE'RE DOING NOW  
IS RECORDING ITS  
EFFECT ON THE  
HUMAN BODY!

WHO KNOWS...MEBBE  
SOMEDAY IT'LL PROTECT  
A WHOLE ARMY JUST LIKE  
IT KEPT YOU SAFE 'N  
SOUND!

HOW COME  
YER SO GOOD  
TA ME?

ONE  
MORE  
TO GO!  
HANG  
LOOSE,  
NICK!

WELL, LOOKS LIKE  
HE'S READY FOR  
THE FINAL TEST!

YOU'RE CERTAIN  
NOTHING CAN GO  
WRONG, DUGAN?

DON'T KNOW WHAT,  
COUNTS! WE'RE  
HERE TO SEE TO  
THAT!

AN' ONCE THAT BARRIER'S  
FORMED, NOTHIN' CAN  
GET IN... AN' NOTHIN'  
CAN GET OUT, EITHER!

HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, DUGAN!  
WE'VE NOTHING BIGGER  
BUT THE H-BOMB!

OKAY, TECHNO...  
FIRE THE MISSILE  
NOW!

\* ENTROPE PHASE BARRIER GUARD SYSTEM!  
BUT KEEP IT TO YOURSELF, TRUE BELIEVER!  
NEVER KNOW WHEN ANY HYDRA AGENTS  
ARE SNOOPING AROUND!

--SECURITY-MINDED STAN. [9]

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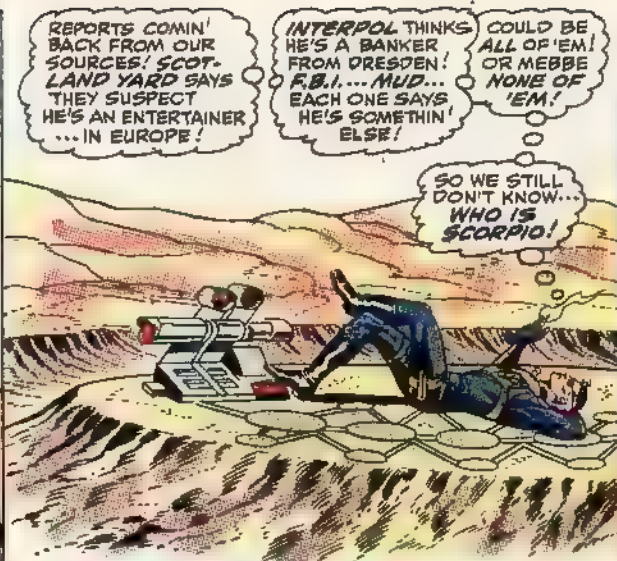




OKAY! THE BIG ONE'S ON ITS WAY!

GIVES ME 'BOUT ELEVEN MINUTES TO RELAX BEFORE TARGET ZERO!

GOTTA THINK ABOUT THAT SCORPIO BIT ANYWAY!



REPORTS COMIN' BACK FROM OUR SOURCES! SCOTLAND YARD SAYS THEY SUSPECT HE'S AN ENTERTAINER ...IN EUROPE!

INTERPOL THINKS HE'S A BANKER FROM DRESDEN! F.B.I. ...MUD... EACH ONE SAYS HE'S SOMETHIN' ELSE!

COULD BE ALL OF 'EM! OR MEBBE NONE OF 'EM!

SO WE STILL DON'T KNOW... WHO IS SCORPIO!



GUESS WE'LL HAVETA KEEP CHECKIN'! HEY! THAT BREEZE...! FEELS GREAT!

HUH! WHAT IN THE... THERE CAN'T BE A BREEZE...UNLESS... THE EPB'S SHUT OFF!

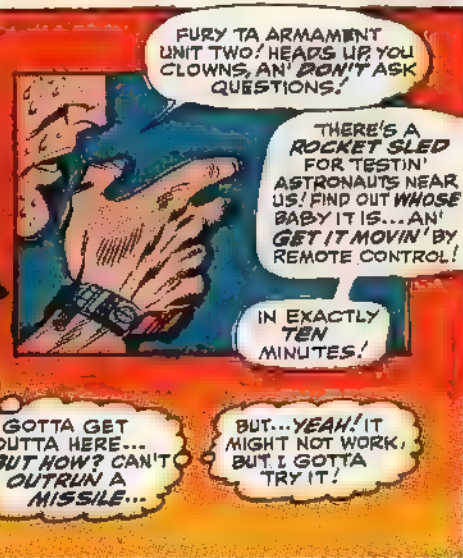


DUGAN! SOMETHIN'S GONE HAYW... DUM-DUM... TALK TO ME, PAL! I CAN'T HEAR YOU... ANY OF YOU!

NO USE...THE LINE'S DEAD...ON THEIR END!

THIS AIN'T NO ACCIDENT!

AN' WITHOUT THE BARRIER, I'LL BE NOTHIN' BUT A PILE 'A DUST!



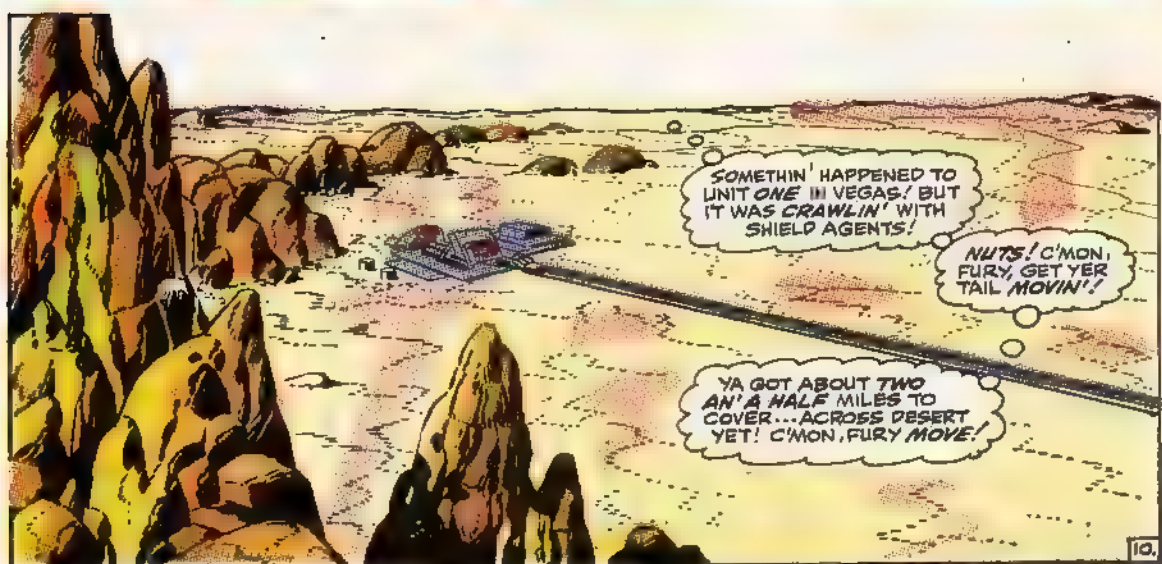
FURY TA ARMAMENT UNIT TWO! HEADS UP YOU CLOWNS, AN' DON'T ASK QUESTIONS!

THERE'S A ROCKET SLED FOR TESTIN' ASTRONAUTS NEAR US! FIND OUT WHOSE BABY IT IS...AN' GET IT MOVIN' BY REMOTE CONTROL!

IN EXACTLY TEN MINUTES!

GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE... BUT HOW? CAN'T OUTFRIN A MISSILE...

BUT...YEAH! IT MIGHT NOT WORK, BUT I GOTTA TRY IT!

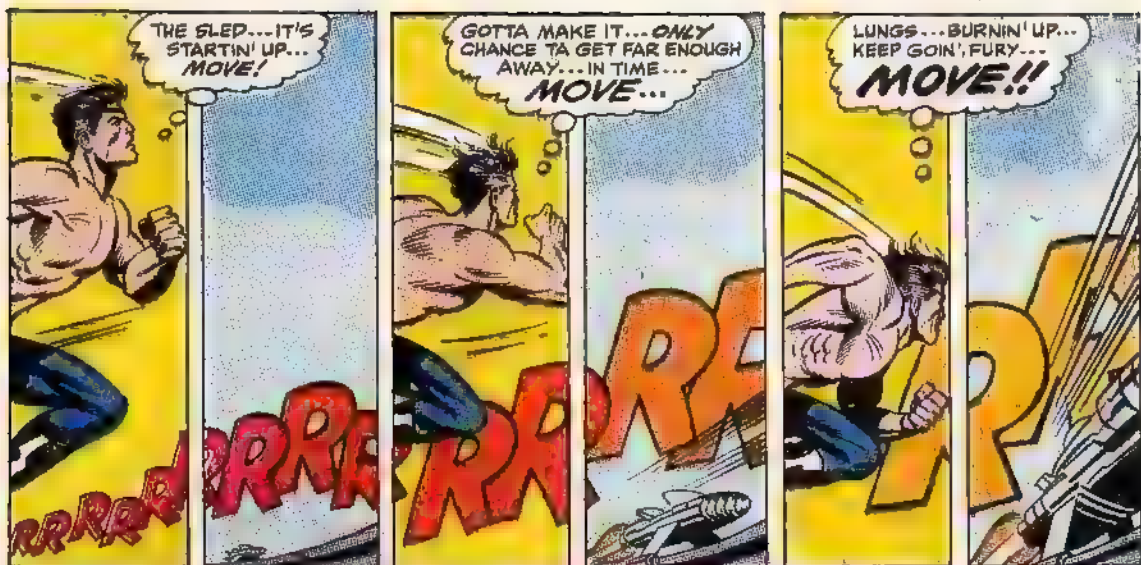


SOMETHIN' HAPPENED TO UNIT ONE IN VEGAS! BUT IT WAS CRAWLIN' WITH SHIELD AGENTS!

NUTS! C'MON, FURY, GET YER TAIL MOVIN'!

YA GOT ABOUT TWO AN' A HALF MILES TO COVER...ACROSS DESERT YET! C'MON, FURY MOVE!

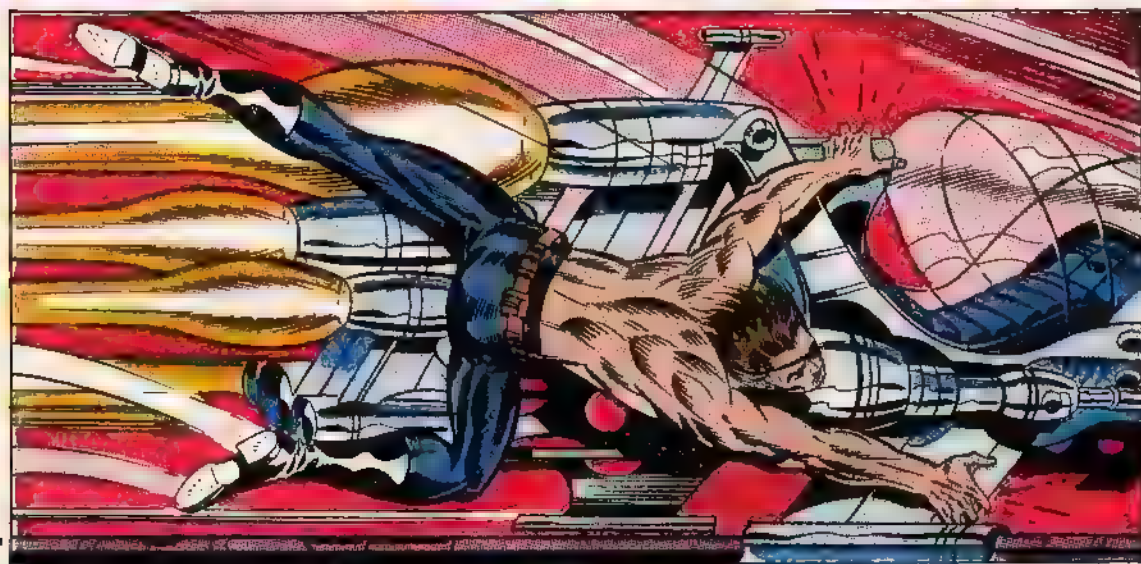




THE SLED...IT'S  
STARTIN' UP...  
**MOVE!**

GOTTA MAKE IT... *ONLY*  
CHANCE TA GET FAR ENOUGH  
AWAY... IN TIME...  
**MOVE...**

LUNGS...BURNIN' UP...  
KEEP GOIN' FURY...  
**MOVE!!**



NOW, IF ONLY THIS THING GETS ME AWAY  
BEFORE THE BLAST...HUH? TIME'S RUN  
OUT... WHY DON'T IT GO OFF?

CAN'T  
HOLD  
ON...  
TOO  
MUCH  
SPEED...  
RIPPIN'  
ME OFF!

NEVER...  
MAKE IT  
BACK  
NOW!

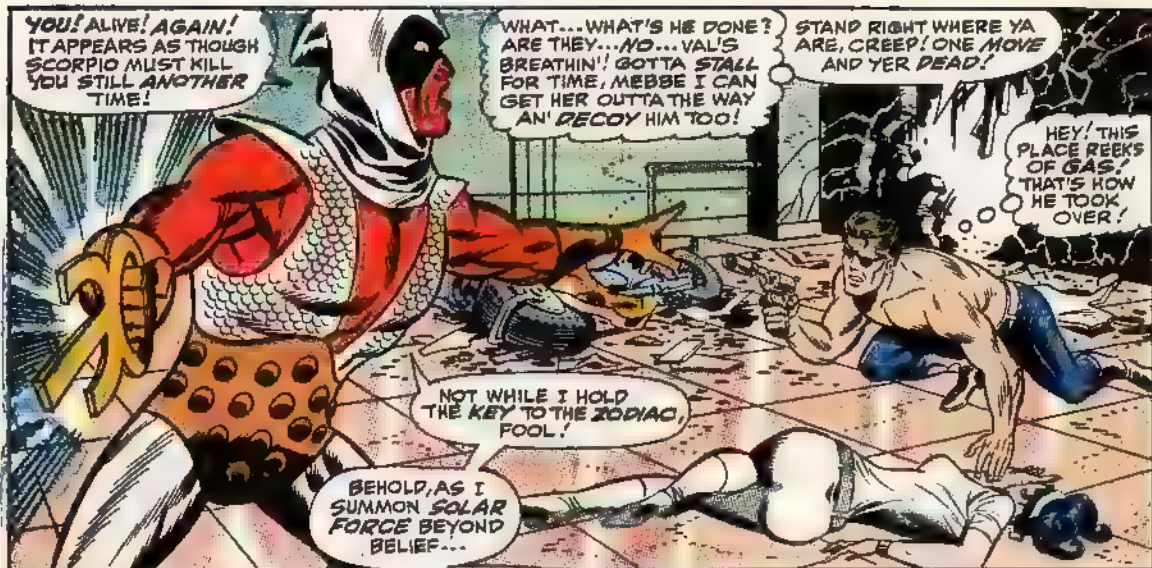


A SHORT WHILE LATER, AT A  
SHIELD UNIT IN LAS VEGAS...

NONE OF THEM  
ARE MOVING...  
MY SLEEP  
FUMES HAVE  
DONE THE JOB  
PERFECTLY!







YOU! ALIVE! AGAIN!  
IT APPEARS AS THOUGH  
SCORPIO MUST KILL  
YOU STILL ANOTHER  
TIME!

WHAT...WHAT'S HE DONE?  
ARE THEY...NO...VAL'S  
BREATHIN'! GOTTA STALL  
FOR TIME, MEBBE I CAN  
GET HER OUTTA THE WAY  
AN' DECOY HIM TOO!

STAND RIGHT WHERE YA  
ARE, CREEP! ONE MOVE  
AND YER DEAD!

HEY! THIS  
PLACE REEKS  
OF GAS!  
THAT'S HOW  
HE TOOK  
OVER!

NOT WHILE I HOLD  
THE KEY TO THE ZODIAC  
FOOL!

BEHOLD, AS I  
SUMMON SOLAR  
FORCE BEYOND  
BELIEF...

SO THAT YOU MAY  
MAKE TRUE MEASURE  
OF THE VENGEANCE  
OF SCORPIO!



THIS TIME  
THERE IS NO  
ESCAPE, FURY!  
THE PARABLE  
OF DOOM HAS  
BEEN SPOKEN!

THE GUY'S  
A BLASTED  
PSYCHO!

IF IT HADN'T  
BEEN FOR THAT  
ROCKET SLED,  
I'D BE COOKED  
BACK IN THE  
DESERT NOW!

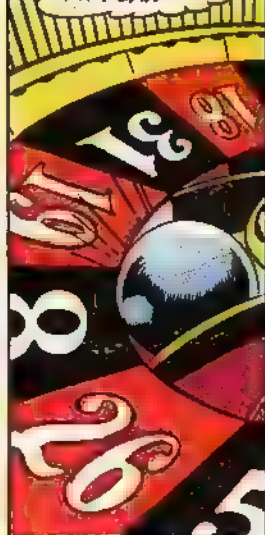
GOTTA HAND  
IT TO UNIT TWO...  
HAD THAT JET  
CYCLE JUST WAITIN'  
FOR ME!



MEANWHILE, IN A NEARBY PALACE OF CHANCE, LADY LUCK BEGINS TO DEAL THE FINAL HAND OF THE GAME...



HERE GOES MY LAST CHIP...ON NINETEEN RED!...WELL, THAT WAS IT...I'M COMPLETELY WIPED OUT...BUSTED! NO OTHER CHOICE NOW... MUST GO THROUGH WITH MY PLAN...



...TO STICK-UP A TELLER! COULDN'T EVEN GET A REAL GUN...JUST A LOUSY FAKE, BUT IT'LL DO...HAVE TO GET THE CASH SOMEHOW... ANYTHING TO KEEP THOSE HOODS OFF MY BACK... AWAY FROM MARIE AND THE BABY!



HACKETT! HEY... YOU! HACKETT!

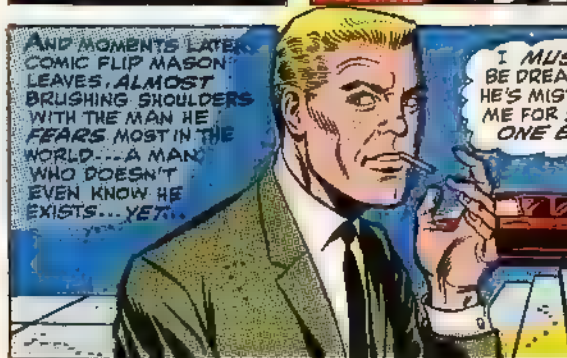
HARDLY RECOGNIZE YOU WITH THE GLASSES, BABY!

HERE...THIS IS IT, HACKETT! TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND, NICE N' NEAT!

TAKE IT AND SPLIT, MAN! LIKE WE SHOULDN'T BE SEEN TOGETHER... AN' NO QUESTIONS, HUH?



AND MOMENTS LATER, COMIC FLIP MASON LEAVES, ALMOST BRUSHING SHOULDERS WITH THE MAN HE FEARS MOST IN THE WORLD...A MAN WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HE EXISTS... YET...



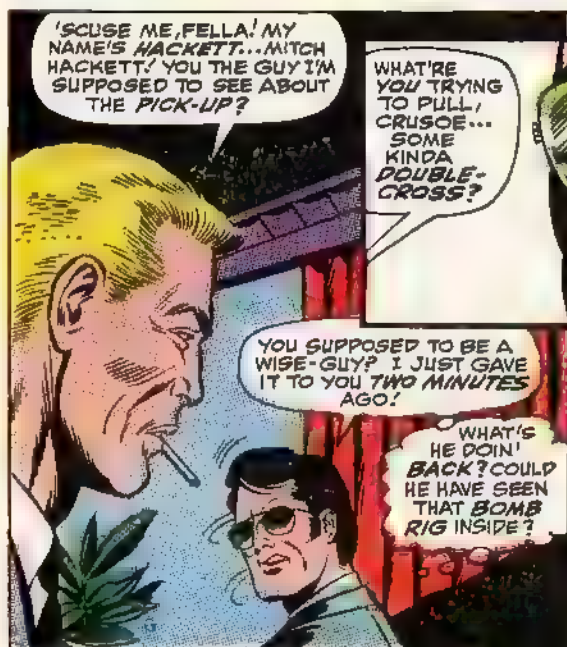
I MUST BE DREAMING! HE'S MISTAKEN ME FOR SOME-ONE ELSE!

ALL MY PROBLEMS ANSWERED! THIS MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY!



'SCUSE ME, FELLA! MY NAME'S HACKETT...MITCH HACKETT! YOU THE GUY I'M SUPPOSED TO SEE ABOUT THE PICK-UP?

WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO PULL, CRUSOE... SOME KINDA DOUBLE-CROSS?



YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A WISE-GUY? I JUST GAVE IT TO YOU TWO MINUTES AGO!

WHAT'S HE DOIN' BACK? COULD HE HAVE SEEN THAT BOMB RIG INSIDE?

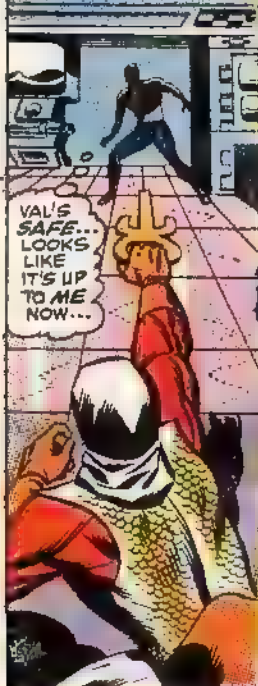


LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TEACH YOU A LESSON, PUNK!

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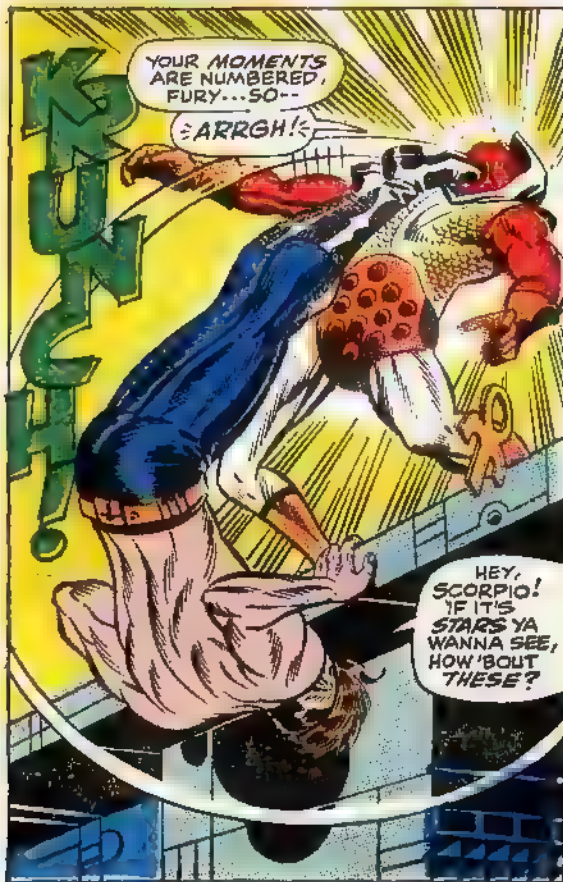
AND, AS THE TWO GUN-  
MEN BEGIN THEIR OWN  
PERSONAL WAR, ANOTHER  
PAIR OF PROTAGONISTS  
PREPARE FOR THE FINAL  
SHOWDOWN...



VAL'S  
SAFE...  
LOOKS  
LIKE  
IT'S UP  
TO ME  
NOW...



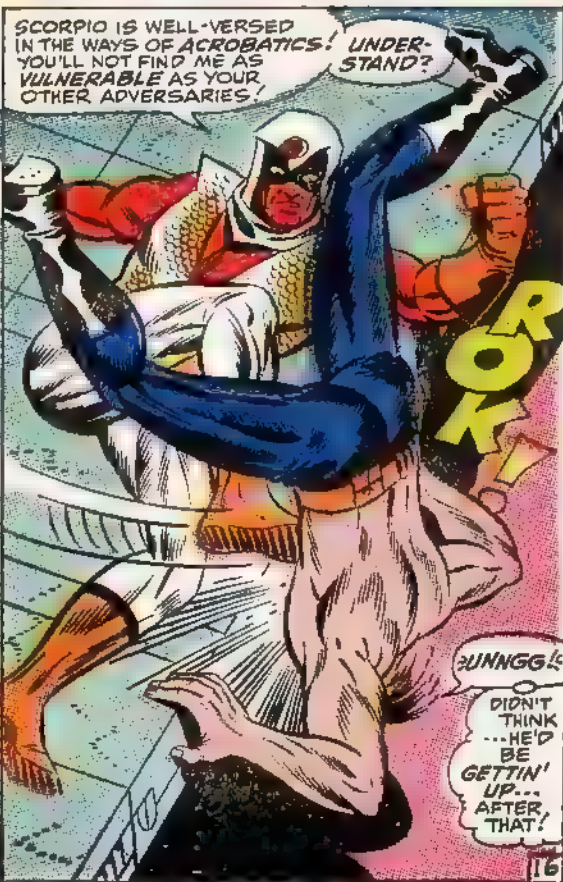
THE VENGEANCE OF  
SCORPIO HAS REACHED  
ITS CONSUMMATE  
MOMENT! NOW, WHILE  
HE LIES STUNNED,  
WILL I FULFILL MY  
MALEVOLENT OATH,  
SWORN IN BLOOD...TO  
KILL NICK FURY!



YOUR MOMENTS  
ARE NUMBERED,  
FURY...SO--

ARRGH!

HEY,  
SCORPIO!  
IF IT'S  
STARS YA  
WANNA SEE,  
HOW 'BOUT  
THESE?



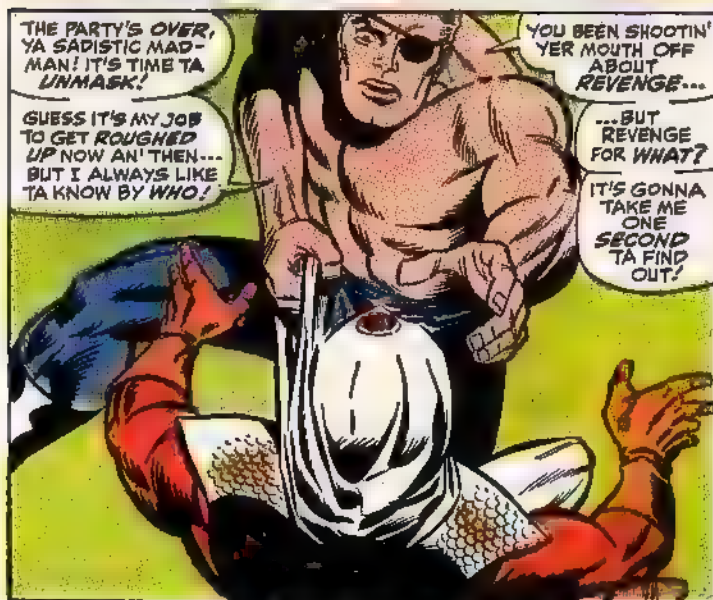
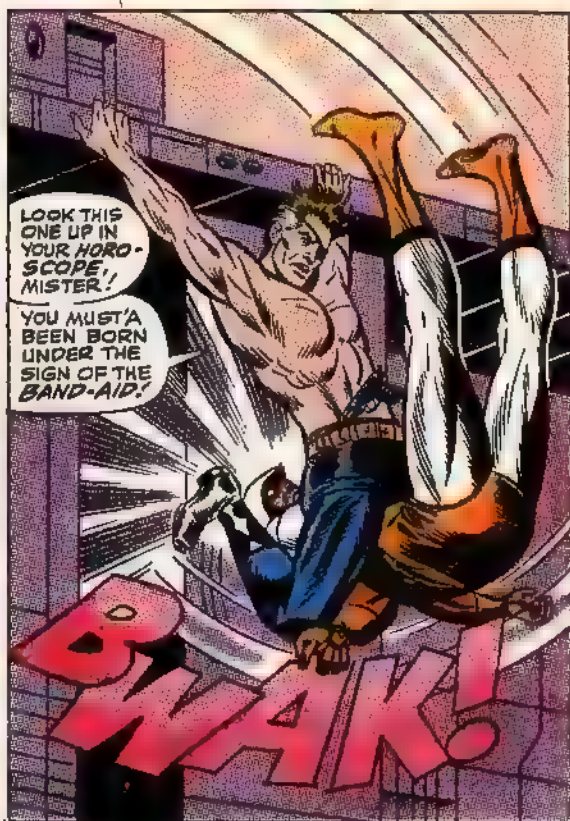
SCORPIO IS WELL-VERSED  
IN THE WAYS OF AEROBATICS! UNDER-  
STAND?

UNDER-  
STAND?

UNNGG!

DIDN'T  
THINK  
...HE'D  
BE  
GETTIN'  
UP...  
AFTER  
THAT!







OBSERVE, FOOL! THE BATTLE IS NOT YET LOST! THE STARS HAVE NOT LIED! THEY PREDICTED YOU'D BE AT MY MERCY THIS VERY DAY!

STILL, THOSE GUNSHOTS... EACH INSTANT I REMAIN MAKES MY GETAWAY THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT!

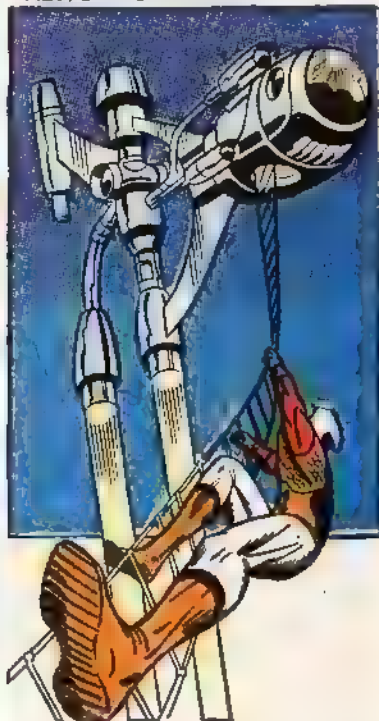


THIS... WILL KEEP YOU HERE UNTIL I HAVE REACHED MY SHIP... THEN...

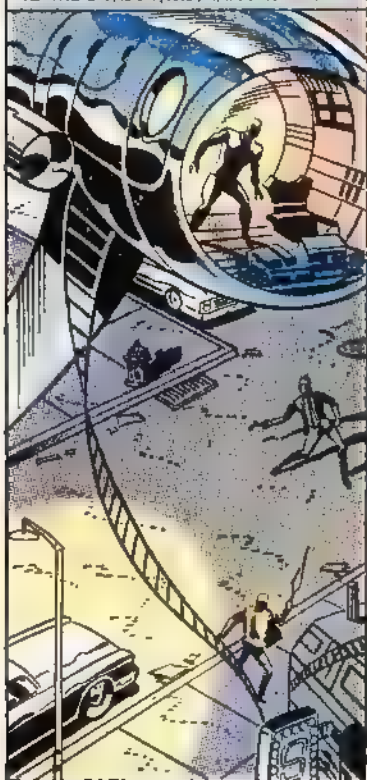
I WILL DESTROY THIS BUILDING AND ALL IN IT!



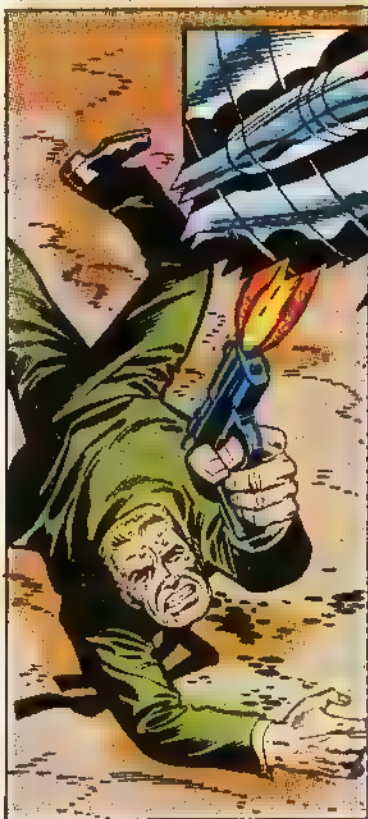
THEN, MOMENTS LATER, AN AWESOME AERIAL CRAFT STREAKS DOWN FROM THE SKY LIKE SOME MAN-MADE SHOOTING STAR, AND ENVELOPS THE FIGURE OF SCORPIO...



TO BE FOLLOWED, MOMENTS LATER, BY ANOTHER WHO SIMPLY SEEKS TO EVADE DEADLY PURSUIT... THEN, ONE OF THE GUNMEN CRUMPLES TO THE STREET, MORTALLY WOUNDED...



AND, WITH HIS FINAL BREATH, GANGLAND KILLER MITCH HACKETT SQUEEZES OFF THE LAST SHOT IN HIS BRUTAL LIFETIME OF CRIME... A SHOT WHICH HITS AND PENETRATES A VITAL SPOT IN THE AIRCRAFT'S ENGINES...



NICK... YOU'RE HURT! I... I SAW WHAT HAPPENED... LIKE COMING OUT OF A FOG!

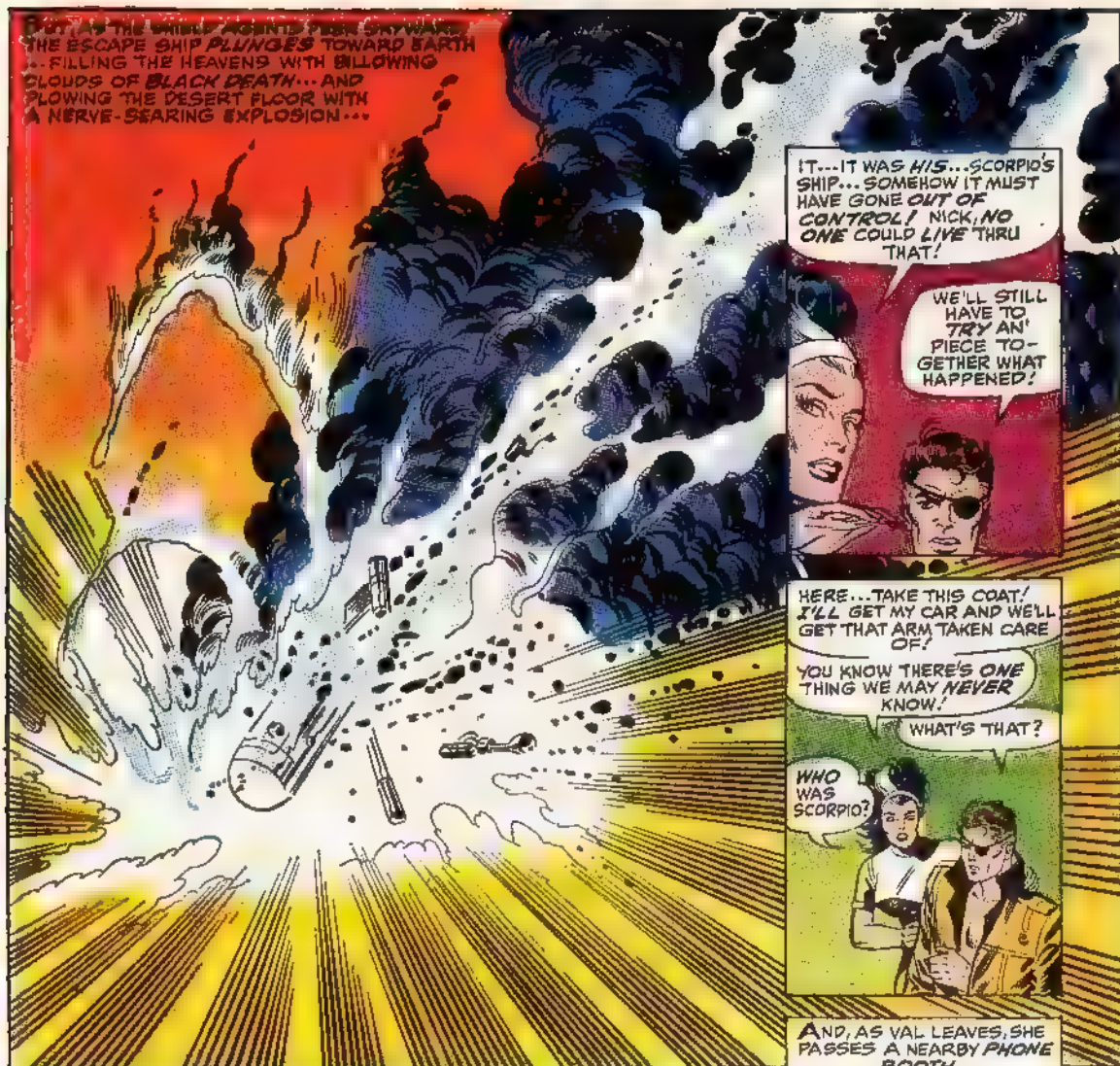


I'LL LIVE, VAL!

QUICK, OUTSIDE! ...GUNSHOTS... SCORPIO'S GETTIN' AWAY!



**BUT AS THE WHIRL AGENTS PEER SKYWARD  
THE ESCAPE SHIP PLUNGES TOWARD EARTH  
-- FILLING THE HEAVENS WITH BLOWING  
CLOUDS OF BLACK DEATH... AND  
PLOWING THE DESERT FLOOR WITH  
A NERVE-SEARING EXPLOSION...**



IT...IT WAS HIS...SCORPIO'S  
SHIP...SOMEHOW IT MUST  
HAVE GONE OUT OF  
CONTROL! NICK, NO  
ONE COULD LIVE THRU  
THAT!

WE'LL STILL  
HAVE TO  
TRY AN'  
PIECE TO-  
GETHER WHAT  
HAPPENED!

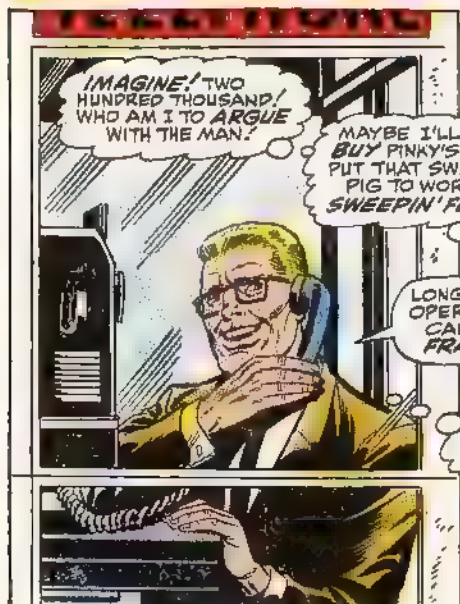
HERE...TAKE THIS COAT!  
I'LL GET MY CAR AND WE'LL  
GET THAT ARM TAKEN CARE  
OF!

YOU KNOW THERE'S ONE  
THING WE MAY NEVER  
KNOW!

WHAT'S THAT?

WHO  
WAS  
SCORPIO?

AND, AS VAL LEAVES, SHE  
PASSES A NEARBY PHONE  
BOOTH...



IMAGINE! TWO  
HUNDRED THOUSAND!  
WHO AM I TO ARGUE  
WITH THE MAN?

MAYBE I'LL  
BUY PINKY'S AND  
PUT THAT SWEATY  
PIG TO WORK  
SWEEPIN' FLOORS!

LONG DISTANCE  
OPERATOR... I'M  
CALLING SAN  
FRANCISCO!

WAIT'LL I TELL MARGIE  
I STRUCK IT RICH IN  
VEGAS! I CAN SEE  
IT ALL NOW!

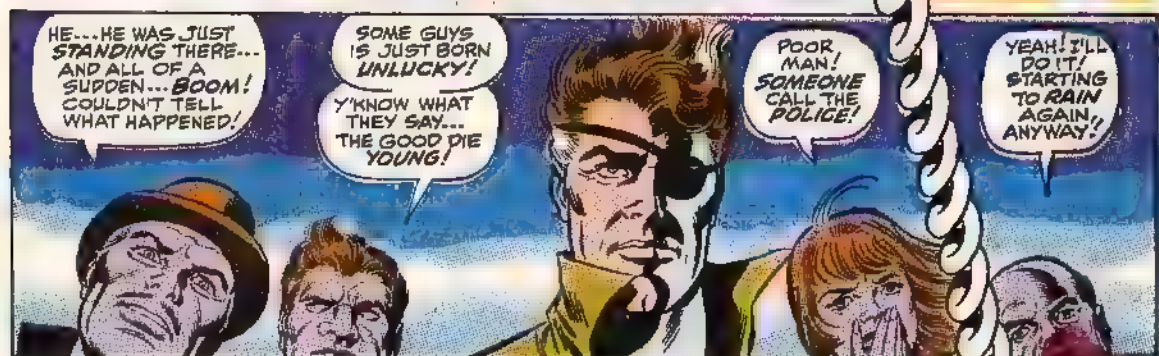
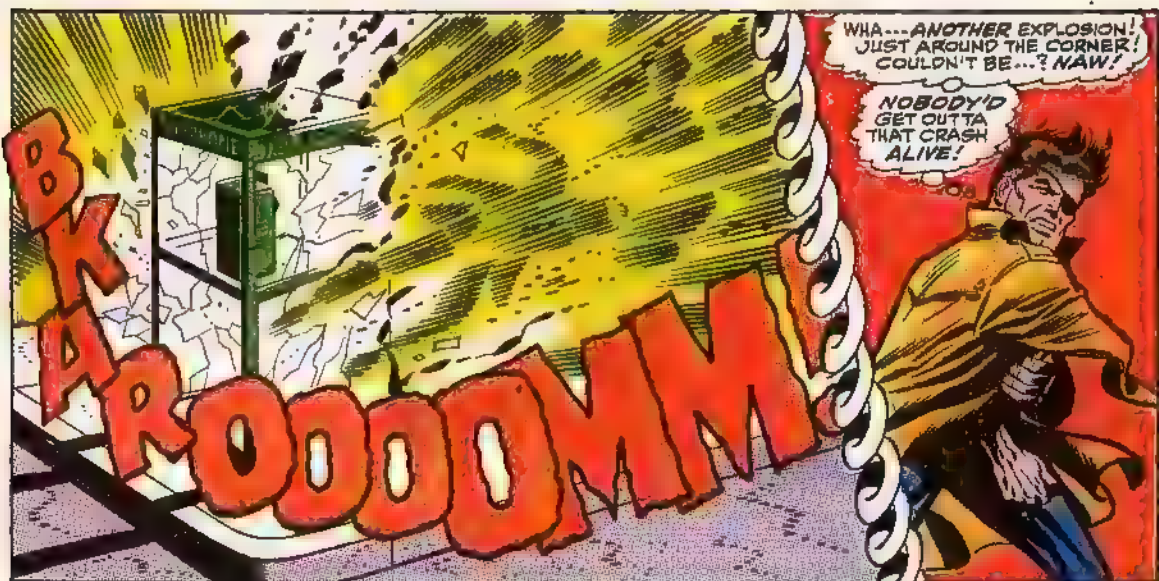
AN' CAN I  
HAVE A  
TRICYCLE,  
MOMMY?

SURE!  
BUTTON!  
A BIG  
RED ONE,  
JUST LIKE  
DADDY  
PROMISED!

DADDY  
COME  
HOME?

YES,  
TIMMY!  
DADDY  
WILL BE  
HOME  
SOON!  
HOME  
TO  
STAY!





YES, FUNNYMAN FLIP MASON FINALLY PAID HIS DUES---ALL, THAT IS, EXCEPT...





# THE SENSES-SHATTERING SURPRISES GO ON AND ON—!

**ITEM!** You knew we'd do it sooner or later! First, we gave CAPTAIN AMERICA and the Incredible HULK their own mags; immediately followed by the cataclysmic appearances of IRON MAN and SUB-MARINER in their own pulse-pounding publications. Now, just as you've demanded, NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD, and the ever-mystifying DR. STRANGE have been awarded their own individual mags — on sale at this very minute (if you can make your way thru the crowds)! Yep, once again munificent Marvel gives you the rare opportunity to acquire a pair of practically priceless collectors' item first editions — as well as the chance to follow the frenzied fabled foibles of two of your favorite far-out frolickers in their own fantasy-filled feature-length books! (If only the word "books" also began with an f, we'd have set some kind of nutty record! Oh well...) So, don't waste a minute! For a penny less than two-bits, you can latch onto two of the newest, most exciting titles in print today — the demon-drenched drama of DR. STRANGE, and hard-bitten hang-ups of NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD! Darlin' Doc is drawn by Dapper Dan Adkins, while nitty-gritty Nick is tossed at you by Jaunty Jimmy Steranko! All that's left to say is GRAB 'EM, pilgrim! They're two more of Marvel's finest!

**ITEM!** Hang loose, hallowed one! You ain't heard nothin' yet! At this very moment — even as you read these mind-expanding words — our bleary-eyed Bullpen brethren are busily creating full-length masterpieces featuring a whole NEW array of Marvel stars — power-packed sensations soon to be headlined in their own strips — all-time greats such as DR. DOOM — KAZAR — SILVER SURFER — and others too startling to mention! They'll all be yours in '68, just as we promised! Or, in the words of Fearless Forbush — "Who SAYS this isn't the Second Golden Age of Marvel!"

**ITEM!** We can't keep you in suspense any longer! It's time to unveil the final rank of Marveldom at last! You've already memorized our first five titles — RFO (Real Frantic One), a buyer of at least three Marvel mags per month — QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), one who's had a letter printed within our pulsating pages — TTB (Titanic True Believer), he who hath won a No-Prize — KOF (Keeper of the Flame), one who recruits a newcomer to our ranks — and PMM (Permanent Marvelite Maximus), the supreme award for any who already possess the four preceding titles! And now, our special sixth category — FFF (Fearless Front Facer), a purely honorary degree, approved and awarded by Smilin' Stan and a carefully chosen committee, for devotion to Marveldom above and beyond the call of duty! There you have 'em, faithful one — the complete list of Marvel titles, with which you may sign your daily correspondence, endorse your Nobel Peace Prize, or engrave upon the back of your Phi Beta Kappa pin. Now, if only WE can remember which is which!

## THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

**NOT BRAND ECHH #8:** Run for the hills, gang — he's back! None other than feeble Forbush-Man has returned, to tackle almost every superhero in sight! It's the whackiest, wildest adventure into hysteria you've ever howled at! And wait'll you see who poor Forbie has to fight!

**FANTASTIC FOUR #75:** We've had the presses running overtime, but we'll never satisfy the demand for this one! The Silver Surfer is hiding from Galactus in a strange new world — and no words of ours can describe the wonder that awaits you!

**SPIDER-MAN #61:** How can you win a

battle and still come out the loser? Well, it might be hard for you or us — but you've gotta see the maddening end of Spidey's adventure with the Kingpin — and the pounding problem that now awaits him!

**AVENGERS #52:** The Panther arrives on the Avengers scene — just in time to be accused of murdering everybody's favorite Assemblers — and then, to top it all off, along comes — the Grim Reaper! Hooo boy! It's a mind-snapper from start to finish!

**X-MEN #44:** The high-flying Angel escapes from the clutches of Magneto and digs out to find help — only to be confronted by the most drastically different good-bad guy since the Silver Surfer! We call him... the Red Raven — but you're gonna call him — great!

**DAREDEVIL #40:** Trying to save the world from the Exterminator's dreaded T-Ray, ol' Hornhead himself falls victim to the weirdest weapon of all time! And that's just the way the Ape-Man, Bird-Man, and Cat-Man want it! No wonder we call it "The Fallen Hero!"

**MIGHTY THOR #152:** We'll never get ourselves out of this one! The pandemonium increases as Odin, Ulik, Loki, Balder, Sif, Karnilla, and the Destroyer — are all tangled up in the most colossal complicated plot since the Iliad!

**CAPTAIN AMERICA #102:** Well, it finally happened! The fearsome Fourth Sleeper has awakened — and now, just as the Red Skull planned, he sets out to destroy all civilization as we know it! And, while he's at it, Cap has his hands full with the evil Exiles!

**INCREDIBLE HULK #104:** After Asgardians and awesome aliens, you'd think an earth-born villain would be a pushover for ol' Green-Skin! But — not the rampaging Rhino! He's a brain-bustin' blast!

**IRON MAN #2:** Would'a believe a vociferous new villain called... the Demolisher, who possesses all the peerless powers of Iron Man himself! If not, just latch onto this illustrious ish! If it doesn't make a believer of you — we give up!

**SUB-MARINER #2:** This is it! At long last the most anxiously awaited clash of the year takes place when Triton leaves the Inhumans' sanctuary to tackle Subby — and the seven seas will never be the same again!

**MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPER-HERO!**

**CAPTAIN MARVEL #2:** With America's greatest missile complex in danger of being obliterated, Captain Marvel must defeat a villain with the combined powers of the Fantastic Four — the Super Skrull!

**DR. STRANGE (PREMIERE ISH):** The Master of the Mystic Arts is finally in a mag of his own — and what more fitting way to kick off this stunning new series than with... "The Coming of Dr. Strange"? Amulet-polishers everywhere — this one's just for you!

**SGT. FURY #54:** Because you demanded it, Izzy Cohen blazes into combat again in a death-defying dash for freedom through the steaming jungles of Burma! Does he make it? Only after 20 pages of block-bustin' battle-action will you find out!

**CAPTAIN SAVAGE #3:** With their men captured by the legions of Baron Strucker, Capt. Savage and his Japanese counterpart, Sgt. Joe Morita, must fight side by side for survival on Hydra's island fortress! A guts-and-glory saga you won't forget!

**MARVEL SUPERHEROES #14:** An all-new, never-before-printed super-saga starring the one and only — SPIDER-MAN! All this plus more golden-age adventures of CAPTAIN AMERICA, SUB-MARINER, and the HUMAN TORCH, for a mere quarter? You'd better believe it!

**MARVEL TALES #14:** SPIDEY, GIANT-MAN,

THOR, and the magnificent MARVEL BOY — almost more than mortal Marvelite can bear! It's a must for you glitzy groovers in this goofy generation!

**MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS**

**#15:** The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk — all in one incredible issue! Just goes to prove that only Marvel has the mags you never get tired of — Marvel after Marvel!

And now... **THE MOST SENSATIONAL SCOOP OF THE YEAR!**

## STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Okay, we admit it! We just can't keep a secret! We're so excited about our newest and most ambitious project that we've GOT to tell you about it or we'll just plain bust! Remember how we always tried to upgrade the image of comic magazines? Well, we're now about to take our biggest step towards realizing that goal! Starting next month, mighty Marvel will present an entirely new concept in illustrated adventure tales — a magazine as different from the ordinary comic as a guided missile is different from a spitball!

It'll be bigger than the mag you're now reading — and will be printed on far more expensive, high-quality paper. The cover will be a full-color painting, and the price will be 35¢! Also, since it's a new, larger size, some dealers may not display it with their comics, but rather among other magazines — so be sure to look for it carefully. And, if you don't see it, ask for it — demand it — cry for it!

Yet, despite the fact that this sensational issue will be a turning point in magazine history, it will feature the same thrills, action, and spectacular surprises for which Marvel is famous! And the artwork — hooo boy! Just wait till you see those dazzling drawings; clearer, sharper, far more dramatic than you ever imagined any illustrated epic could be!

But now you're wondering about the title! Which character will be featured? You're hoping we selected the right one for so vital a test! Well, face front, flame-keeper! We think we've chosen the very same hero you yourself would have picked — possibly the most popular single fantasy character in the world today — none other than — your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN!

That's all we can tell you now, 'cause we're still writing and drawing like crazy to make our deadline. But, while you're waiting for the big day, be sure to sock away three dimes and a nickel so that you'll have 'em when our 35¢ SPIDEY hits the stands. All of comicdom has been demanding this giant step forward — this long-awaited leap to the next plateau of literary greatness — and soon it will be yours! So, whatever you do — wherever you go — don't fumble the ball. By working together, we'll make the comic strip art form more prized and respected than ever thruout the world! And SPIDER-MAN is just the swinger to do it!

Excelsior!

—Smiley.





# DON'T YIELD, WRITE S.H.I.E.L.D.

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 625 MADISON AVE., N.Y., N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan and Jim,

"Behold the Savage Sky" proved to me once and for all why Jim Steranko is the only man for the Shield series. The invasion of Yellow Claw's lair was strictly out of sight. Pages 2 and 3 were beautiful. Check that third frame on page 7 — the hate was radiating right out of it. Claw reminded me of Fu Manchu. I've one gripe (not with the story itself) — of late we see Fury changing his ways. No longer is he unshaven, rarely do we see a stooge clenched between his teeth, and rarer still Fury running around in his street clothes. Don't get me wrong — I think his zip-suit is great, and it's a terrific device for him, but let's not overdo it. Let's cool it a bit and bring back his old character. You know, with Jim's cool plots and penciling, and fine work at the inking helm, how about turning Shield into a full-length book? 'Nuff said!

Ken Kahre, 2896 Poe Ave.  
St. Louis 14, Mo.

The full-length book you've got, Kennyl! Of course, we'll see Fury rumpled, wrinkled, and unshaven; but we kinda feel he digs his new look! After all, if you spent half a lifetime in a foxhole, you wouldn't mind dressing up for a change either! As for Jim being the only man to do Shield, we feel you're absolutely right! But, to be really honest, he's the only one who can get into Shield Headquarters to talk to Fury!



Dear Stan and Jim,

When you first drew a Shield story in issue #151, Jim, you did a fairly good job even though Jack Kirby did the layouts. I liked your art from the start. Since then the jolly

one has left the layouts to you and you have gradually improved. For a few issues you experimented, but once you settled down on one style — zowie! Your layouts were, well, sensational! And I think you ought to give Jack some lessons in drawing machinery! And now we find out that you've been doing your own coloring! But Clay Quartermain stinks! You just gotta be kidding! He looks like Dudley Do-right! A little exaggeration on the Gaffer I don't mind, but if you're going to fill the mag with ridiculous caricatures like that, hoo-boy! By the way, how about an explanation of that trick the Yellow Claw pulled on page 10??!

Paul Dushkind, 290 Tamalpais Rd.  
Fairfax, Cal. 94930

We're sure that all your questions about the Oriental Mastermind have been answered in the final fantastic chapter of Shield vs. The Claw! As for Clay Q., would you believe his family left him defenseless without his Right Guard? All kidding aside, maybe we'll ask faithful Fury fans to give us the word on Controversial Clay . . . Yes or No! (And just watch some wise-guy write in "Maybe"!)

Dear Stan and Jim,

I just finished issue #163 and I must compliment you on the great work. The layout was great, as usual, and the art was fab. Now that I got that out, I just wanted to mention a character that you introduced — his name is Clay Quartermain. You guys must be going Hollywood or something. Don't get me wrong — he is kind of cool. He just looks vaguely familiar. In my opinion he appeared to resemble Burt Lancaster. I may be wrong but fill me in on the details anyway. Till everlovin' Nick Fury trades his cigars for a year's supply of soda pop, make mine Marvel!

Wayne Chimento, 576 E. 29th St.  
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11210

Well, now that you mention it, Wayne boy, any resemblance between Shield Agent Clay Q. and movie star Burt Lancaster is purely coincidental! So help us, Elmer Gantry! (Whew!)

Dear Stan and Jim,

I'm writing to give credit where credit is due. And I must say Mr. Steranko deserves the highest praise and credit due. "And the Dragon Cried . . . Death!" is the best story to date that Jim has written! The plot and art were great, and Clay Quartermain is really a unique character. Please — more of Clay! I would like to know what A.I.M. was doing in the story. Will A.I.M. be playing an important role in coming issues? As for the cover, it was only exceeded by issue #161. By the way, does Jim do his own coloring? If so, it's the best I've seen.

Mike Hudak, 3160 W. 48th St.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Isn't that a coincidence, Mike! Jim thinks his coloring is the best he's seen, too! (But then, there's a vicious rumor going around that his own is the only coloring he looks at!) Seriously though, we've been trying to figure out what A.I.M. was doing in that story ourselves! But, about Clay, we're sure he'll turn up whenever Fury needs him. And if we know Fury, that probably won't take too long!

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!



Dear Stan and Jim,

"When Comes . . . Black Noon!" is further proof, if any is required, that Jim Steranko is the greatest contribution to comic strip illustration and scripting since Stan Lee. He has raised a series which started as no more than a mediocre imitation of James Bond and has fleshed his characters with probing identities, intriguing conflicts, and padding — all this with the tiny subplots which often are the best part of any story. This fifth chapter in the Fury-san vs. Yellow Claw (or is it the sixth chapter at this point?) mirrors all of these improvements even if the story does seem to pass too quickly by. It seems that each chapter should have been at least 20 pages so that we could but see more of the lovely Suwan, so that our eyes might behold more of the mysterious girl named Val, and more, that we could even probe further the soul of the greatest villain to hit the comics stands in many, many moons. The Yellow Claw is not unlike, I suppose, many other villains flooding the comic-books these days except that even though his goals are the same — world domination, world enslavement, and such — Jim presents these goals and this villain with much more insight. Artwise, it just doesn't seem there isn't anything that he can't draw. He acts almost as if he is directing a suspense movie, juggling his panels like the change of angle of the camera. Fantastic! He is as good at drawing two barbers sitting in a barber shop discussing the daily trivia with reflections in the wall mirror as he is at having Fury confronting the Yellow Claw and Voltzmann. The Sky Dragon and the view of Manhattan were almost indescribable, as if Cinemascope had finally been intrigued to join Marvel. Great work, Stan and Jim! Donald McGregor, 43 Wildwood Ave. Providence, R.I. 02910

When we told Jim about your penetrating and perceptive letter he was speechless — and that's something for jaunty Jim! He does indeed tell his stories using filmic techniques: point-of-view shots, symbolic montages, shock cuts, dynamic close-ups and just about anything else he feels will tell his stories with impact! Frequently, we hear him mumbling that nobody ever notices the tricky shots he uses (he calls them "A" touches), such as the mirror shots and reflections you mention! All he could say was, "Send Don a first-class A-1 no-prize . . . and send it before Black Noon!"

Dear Stan and Jim,

The artwork done by Jim Steranko is really fine. Since his surname is not particularly common, I did some digging through my old magic magazines, in particular — GENII — a West Coast mag devoted to finger-flingers and professional magicians. In 1961, a young man known as "STERANKO" put out a book, "Steranko on Cards," which was hailed as a major effort in cardmanship. "Steranko" immediately gathered a following of those who delight in "take a card—any card" magic tricks. He was praised by professionals for his ideas and handling of a deck. In 1962, an entire issue of GENII was devoted to "Steranko's" card work and this was followed in 1964 by another issue featuring "Steranko's" research and work in escape magic, a la Houdini. "Steranko" began his work in this field as a kid and his background is remarkable. No first name was ever used in connection with "Steranko," the "enfant terrible" of magicians, wizard of handcuffs and a deck of cards. A resume of his interests included comments that he had worked for an ad agency (Madison Ave.), worked with carnivals, played lead sax in a rock band and had done work — as a comic-book illustrator! I think your "Jaunty Jim" Steranko and "Steranko" the card expert and master of escapes are one and the same. Did you know you had such a multi-talented celebrity in your midst? If I'm right, I'd appreciate your confirmation, and you can tell Jim I'm a charter member of the Steranko Fan Club. You could do a

bio on this guy that would be a lulu. His life story makes better reading than any superhero you have come up with. Some guys get all the breaks!

Carle Germelman, Jr., Rt. #1, Box 64  
Boyce, Va. 22620

Carle, buddy, you have more background on Mr. S. than Stan did when he hired him! After he reads your letter, he'll probably ask our leader for a raise! We always suspected Jim wasn't telling us everything. But why should we ever print his bio, when you just did it for us! By the way, if Jim ever needs an agent, could he call you?



Dear Stan and Jim,

As an Astro-Geophysicist with definite astronomical interests, I simply cannot let an error of such magnitude remain unmentioned. In STRANGE TALES #164 you stated that Nick Fury's spectro-unit converts light to energy and that energy is invisible. Now as any fifth grader should know, light is just one form of electromagnetic energy and it certainly is visible. I have been able to overlook some of your past scientific errors, but this one is just too much. Sheesh! You could change the wavelength of light to the infrared. That would make it invisible to the unaided eye.

Jo Anne Baldwin, Sommers-Bausch Observatory  
Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.

You're absolutely right, Jo Anne, Luv! We told our ever-loving artist/scripter that he should have finished the fifth grade! No wonder he goofed on that one! But Fury was tickled pink to hear that a girl Astro-Geophysicist took the time to write him a note! (Now, if only the redoubtable leader of Shield could read!)

Dear Stan and Jim,

I found issue #165 to be a . . . well . . . a . . . it was indescribable! The portrait of Fury was terrific and the art tremendous. There was a sharp incline in the art over #164. I was going to scream and yell but now all is forgiven. For the first time in the history of comics, you implied that a hero had combat fatigue — see page 6, panel 2. If you think you can escape without one question, forget it! Why don't your heroes ever bleed? Even in your last issue, Fury got punched out by the Claw with spiked knuckles, and he didn't even get a scratch! Come on — tell us!

Steve Esperes, 3289 So. Dayfield Ave.  
Milwaukee, Wisc. 53207

That's an easy one, Steve! Our howlin' heroes never bleed because the Comics Code doesn't allow them to! They just suffer a lot! Okay?

**NEXT** A **STRANGE LAND**—  
A **STRANGER VILLAIN!**

THAT'S ALL JAUNTY JIM'LL TELL US FOR NOW—BUT YOU CAN BET YOUR SHIELD STUN-GUN IT'LL BE A **STERANKO SMASH!**



SUDDENLY, A NERVE-SHATTERING CRASH TEARS INTO THE DEADLY SILENCE... AND THRU THE VERY WALL OF THE ROOM ITSELF! MAKING HIS ENTRANCE AS ONLY THE SHIELD RAMROD CAN... THE INDESTRUCTIBLE NICK FURY APPEARS LIKE A HUMAN CYCLONE TO FACE A NEW FOE... THE MAN KNOWN ONLY AS... **SCORPIO!**

